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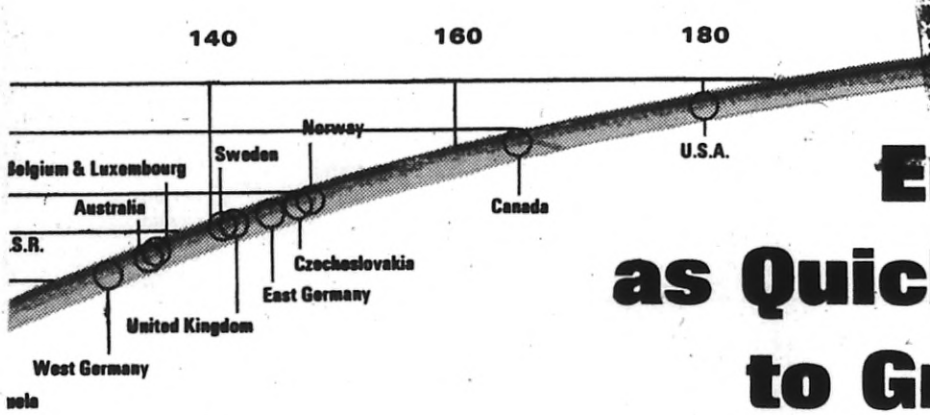

Energy as Quick Key to Growth

LIFE INTERNATIONAL Discovers the GDR

"Life" Magazine has just staggered its readers (International Edition, September 21st) by printing a chart showing that the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) is well up with the top nations in industrialisation. This disclosure must have come as a great surprise to the readers of the papers published by the conservative US "Time and Life" trust, since the papers in this chain lose no opportunity to describe the GDR as a ramshackle country tottering on the edge of starvation and breakdown.

The growth curve published by "Life", part of which is reproduced on this page, is described by the magazine as follows:

"From the curve which soars across these pages can be read the relative industrial output, state of development, and, to some extent, even the growth prospects of any nation. It is the work of Fremont Felix, a French-trained engineer with a passion for energy ... He plotted the curve, based on analysis of the yearly increase in the use of energy of all kinds in all countries, when the latest United Nations figures on world energy use became available early this summer... The curve and the tables ... are based on the world's total use of energy over the years, computed by adding together the consumption of coal, oil and natural gas (expressed in terms of the heat value of coal), plus the quantity of coal it would have taken to produce in a modern plant the electricity generated by water power and nuclear power. Table 1, like the curve, places the countries in order of the use of energy per capita, in kilograms per capita of energy-equivalent coal, indicating. Felix says, relative stages of industrialisation. Table 2 provides a listing, in order of magnitude, of the total use of energy in all the countries, in millions of tons, instead of kilograms, of EEC. Because everything that contributes to high levels of national income is energy-consuming, Felix says energy use provides, all by itself, as complete an index of output as if a much larger number of indicators were used."

(The tables referred to are reproduced on the next page)

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Passes for West Berliners Despite Hold-Up: **page 142**

Bonn & South Africa in Nuclear Arms Plot: **page 145**

LIFE Discovers the GDR

TABLE 1 (from "Life")

The figure in the first column indicates use of energy per capita, converted to kilograms of coal per year. The figure in the second column indicates the number of years which the country in question is "ahead" of very backward countries consuming almost no energy.

United States	8,505	180
Bahrein	8,268	175
Canada	7,400	165
Norway	5,560	148
Czechoslovakia	5,460	147
East Germany	5,230	145
United Kingdom	5,024	142
Sweden	4,970	141
Panama Canal Zone	4,550	137
Iceland	4,400	136
Belgium & Lux.	4,397	136
Australia	4,210	135
West Germany	3,960	132

TABLE 2 (from "Life")

This table shows the total use of energy, irrespective of population, in millions of tons of energy-equivalent coal.

United States	1,586.00
USSR	693.00
Communist China	394.50
United Kingdom	268.20
West Germany	225.10
Japan	147.80
Canada	137.50
France	130.80
Poland	99.64
East Germany	88.92
Italy	80.92
India	76.02
Czechoslovakia	75.84

Berlin Pass Agreement Signed Despite Bonn Hold-Up

Representatives of the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Senate of West Berlin signed an agreement on September 24th governing visits paid by West Berliners to their relatives in East Berlin, the capital of the GDR.

Under the new agreement, West Berliners will be able to apply to the GDR authorities for passes to visit relatives five times a year, mainly at holiday periods; in addition, special facilities are to be provided for passes to be issued at short notice for compassionate reasons, such as births, death and serious illness.

The passes will be issued in West Berlin at special pass offices staffed by a mixed force of postal officials from the GDR and West Berlin.

The new pass agreement was in all the main technical points a repetition of the original "Christmas agreement" reached on December 17th 1963; the main improvement in the new agreement was that it will run for one year, is renewable without further complicated negotiations, and provides for a number of visits.

All the main points in the new agreement were proposed by the representatives of the GDR on January 17th 1964, but negotiations dragged on for nine months while forces in West Berlin and West Germany opposed any form of direct negotiation or agreement between capitalist and socialist parts of Germany.

The final hold-up came early in September, when the Bonn Government, which has no legal right to speak for West Berlin, which does not form part of the West German Republic, refused to sanction the agreement. Public pressure in West Berlin and West Germany forced a revision of this attitude, and the West German Government capitulated, after claiming that its last minute intervention had secured "important modifications" in the agreement. An official GDR spokesman said that the only changes made in the draft agreement in the last three weeks of negotiation consisted of a) the renumbering of one paragraph; b) the replacement of the phrase "application for a visit" by the phrase "application for a pass"; and c) the elimination of three colons.

The reason for the frantic last-minute West German efforts to hinder the agreement was that it was a sensible document reached in the course of face-to-face negotiations by the duly authorised representatives of the GDR Government and the West Berlin Senate; the West German authorities fear that positive results from such negotiations may make it difficult in future for them to pretend that nothing can be achieved by direct negotiations with the official representatives of the GDR.

The West German Government attempted to cover its retreat under public pressure in this question by issuing a statement saying "The regime of the Soviet Occupation Zone, which has no democratic legitimation, is not a subject in international law; this means that the question of the name which it chooses to give itself is irrelevant."

This curious formulation was intended to cancel out the effect of the fact that the agreement was signed, quite officially, "by State Secretary Erich Wendt on the instructions of the Deputy Prime Minister of the GDR" and "by West Berlin Senate Counsellor Horst Korber on the instructions of the Chief of the Senate Chancellory acting for the Governing Mayor of Berlin".

Political observers in Berlin pointed out that the pass agreement had far more than purely local Berlin significance; it could serve as a pattern for more important negotiations and agreements between the two German states, even before the West German Government can make up its mind to recognise the existence of the German Democratic Republic.

GDR PREMIER DIES

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic for nearly fifteen years, died in Berlin of a stroke after a long illness on September 21st. He will be buried in the "Socialists' Cemetery" in East Berlin alongside many of the great leaders of the German socialist movement, such as Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and Wilhelm Pieck.

Otto Grotewohl was born in Braunschweig in 1894. He learned the trade of a printer, and joined the Social Democratic Party before the First World War at the age of 17. During the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic he held many public posts as a Social Democrat, serving for a period as Minister of Education in the Braunschweig Provincial Government, and as a member of the Reichstag from 1925 to 1933.

During the nazi period he was active in the socialist resistance movement, being twice arrested. To avoid a third arrest after the bomb plot against Hitler in 1944 he went underground, emerging at the end of the war.

After the overthrow of the nazi regime he became the first chairman of the re-formed Social Democratic Party in the eastern part of Germany. His experiences in the underground struggle against fascism had convinced him that the workers' parties must unite, and he played a leading part in bringing about this unification. In April 1946 the Social Democrats and the Communists in East Germany joined to form one party, and Otto Grotewohl became joint chairman of the newly formed Socialist Unity Party, together with Wilhelm Pieck, veteran Communist.

In October 1949, on the formation of the German Democratic Republic, Wilhelm Pieck was elected President, and summoned Grotewohl to form the first cabinet. Grotewohl continued to hold the post of Prime Minister until his death. Since 1960 he had been in bad health, and unable to play a full part in public affairs.

The funeral ceremony for Otto Grotewohl on September 23rd was attended by statesmen from many countries, including Vice Premier Dmitri Polyanski and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko from the Soviet Union; and Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz from Poland. Messages of condolence were received from U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, the Indian Premier Lal Bahadur Shastri, and the Premiers or Presidents of the UAR, Iceland, Syria, Cambodia, Finland and other countries.

An historic handshake. In April 1946, Otto Grotewohl (right), then chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, and Wilhelm Pieck, Chairman of the Communist Party, clasped hands to symbolise the reunification in one part of Germany of the German working class movement, split since the First World War. Wilhelm Pieck later became first President of the German Democratic Republic: he died in September 1960. Otto Grotewohl was Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic from its formation in 1949 until his death in September 1964.

Speaking at the funeral, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR stated:

"Today, on the eve of the 15th birthday of our Republic, we can see that Otto Grotewohl had an important part in shaping the history of our workers' and peasants' state. For fifteen years he headed the cabinet, and had a decisive influence in giving form to our socialist state. He headed the Government at a time in which the change from capitalism to socialism was accomplished in Germany; in our Republic the monopolies were deprived of their power. The aim for which Otto Grotewohl and millions of his Social Democratic comrades had fought since their youth was accomplished: to bring to an end man's exploitation of man."

NEW PREMIER - WILLI STOPH

Willi Stoph of the Socialist Unity Party was appointed Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic in place of the deceased Otto Grotewohl on September 24th, and the appointment was confirmed by the People's Chamber. He was simultaneously elected Deputy Chairman of the State Council of the GDR.

The new Prime Minister, who has been Acting Prime Minister during Otto Grotewohl's long illness, was born in 1904, and is by trade a bricklayer. At the age of 14 he joined the Young Communist League, and three years later, in 1931, the Communist Party. In the nazi period, during which he was conscripted into the Wehrmacht, he was active in the antifascist underground movement.

Immediately after the end of the war he resumed his activities in the Communist Party, and later the Socialist Unity Party. In 1950 he was elected to the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party; he has been a member of the Political Bureau of the Party since 1953.

From 1952 to 1955 Willi Stoph was Minister of the Interior of the GDR, and from 1956 to 1960 Minister of Defence. From 1962 he served as First Deputy Prime Minister.

W. GERMAN JOURNALS BREACH TABOOS CALL FOR GDR RECOGNITION

For many years the West German Establishment has imposed with great success a taboo upon almost the entire press in the German Federal Republic: this taboo can be summed up in the words "Hear no GDR: See no GDR: Speak no GDR". Any discussion of German problems had to be conducted on the assumption that the eastern part of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, did not really exist.

The realities of the situation, and the growing strength of the GDR, are gradually forcing a revision of this standpoint, and during September two influential West German magazines called for a new approach, which would have to include some measure of recognition for the German Democratic Republic.

On September 27th the weekly magazine "Stern", with the largest circulation of any West German weekly, published an article by Sebastian Haffner which stated:

"There must finally be a frank admission of the fact that there is no room for political manoeuvre in Germany without taking as a basis the reality of the existence of the two German states. As long as this is not admitted, it is impossible to pursue a policy of reunification, or even a policy of palliatives. It is impossible to make any progress if the first thing you do is to demand that your partner in the negotiations should admit that he does not exist; and if German affairs are to be discussed, then the GDR is the unavoidable partner in the negotiations. For years certain people have been proclaiming that they will make the GDR disappear; but for years they have not been able to explain how they will do this.

"Under these circumstances, reunification can no longer mean extending the German Federal Republic to the eastern frontiers of the GDR, or even beyond. Today reunification can only mean the creation of a German League of States or a confederation consisting of the Federal Republic and the GDR; or, in Marxist terms, the peaceful coexistence between two social systems in one country. If the Germans managed to do this they would, for a change, have done something original, constructive, and of interest for the rest of the world.

"But quite a lot of water will have flowed down the German rivers until we get as far as that. In the meantime it would be quite an advance if the two German states would make up their minds to be friends instead of enemies; and the time for this may come sooner than one thinks. Once the ice is broken, we shall probably re-discover many decent and useful factors, and probably some things worth imitating on one side or the other. But before this can happen, the ice must be broken. For this, technical contacts alone will not be sufficient; political contacts will be needed, and above all the determination not to damage each other but to help one another.

"This will be the decisive turning point. The time for this is over-ripe. When we have taken this step will we not feel a little ashamed that it took so long?"

Writing in the very influential weekly news magazine "Spiegel", editor Rudolf Augstein stated on September 23rd:

"Why should we not wait, denying that the GDR is a state, until it perhaps one day collapses? There is an unspoken answer: The GDR will not collapse, whether its existence is ratified in international law or not, since its existence is necessary for the inner balance of the European system which is coming into existence in East and West, and necessary too for the outer balance between the two systems. It does not exist simply as the result of a Russian diktat, but as a part of the new European system now in creation. The disappearance of the GDR at this stage would throw up problems which all the victor powers would regard as more difficult than the problems raised by its existence. The GDR may be despised, but nobody really wishes for its disappearance ...

"The German Federal Republic, and it alone, must decide whether it is sensible and useful to make progress in central Europe and an easing of the situation for the people of the GDR dependent upon doing nothing which might "increase the stature" of the GDR, or cause it to be recognised as a state or included in the system of rapprochement between East and West.

"It appears to me that the obstacles erected by Bonn only make sense if they can guarantee that the GDR and the Federal Republic will never sit down together and negotiate as governments; but will we really be able to avoid this? ...

"The parties represented in the Federal Parliament demand without exception today that territory settled by Poles must be returned to Germany, up to the frontiers of 1937 or beyond. These parties also demand that the Sudeten Germans, without exception, shall be allowed to return to their homeland. It is clear that such demands cannot be complied with without war. 'Only fools can believe that the German people will write off their eastern provinces' writes Hans-Georg von Studnitz. If this is true, then the GDR simply must continue to exist.

"Since the establishment of the Federal Republic, it has never produced the glimmer of a policy which would allow the Soviet Union **not** to make the GDR a state, and **not** to build the Wall in Berlin. If the Federal German Government has properly considered its policy, it had the right to make such a decision; but for years it has been faced by the fact that this policy can only harden the status quo, and never bring a change. If the Federal Government does not wish to change its policy, there is nothing more to be said. If it wishes to try new paths, then it must think harder and more consistently than is the usual practice in Bonn...

"Let us imagine that relations were established between West and East Germany similar to those between France and Rumania; sooner or later the leaders of the Socialist Unity Party (of the GDR, ed.) would have to become interested in winning patriotic laurels and economic successes. Small steps to more independence would certainly follow; arms agreements between East and West in Europe would become negotiable. Things in Germany would improve, parallel at least to the rapprochement in the rest of Europe...

"The Wall in Berlin may be inhumane, but it is a result of the policies of all of us. After the war, East and West were unable to agree on the results of the war, and West Germany took a very extreme position against those states which suffered most bitterly from Hitler's aggression. It is hard to see how the Kremlin could have guaranteed the existence of the communist regimes which it installed without the Ber-

(cont. at foot of next page)

Bonn and South Africa - Joint Atom Weapon Plans?

West Germany and South Africa are cooperating to produce nuclear weapons and rockets, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in the German Democratic Republic charged in a memorandum presented to the public on September 15th. The main points made by the memorandum are given below.

Banker Hermann Josef Abs, one of the most influential men in the West German Federal Republic today, who was listed by the US authorities after World War Two as a leading "economic war criminal", visited the Republic of South Africa in autumn 1963.

Abs held very long conversations with officials of various government branches, especially with Dr N. Diederichs, Minister for Economic Affairs and Mines, one of the wartime leaders of the pro-nazi "Broederbond", who was trained as an agent in nazi Germany.

Main subject of the talks was the measures necessary for large-scale production of fissionable material for nuclear bombs after tests on the production of "nuclear grade uranium metal" and reactor material had been completed in the pilot plant at Pelindaba near Johannesburg.

There was further discussion on camouflaging production of fissionable material by means of a widely publicised programme for nuclear power-plants, and on the development and testing of all types of missiles, including long-range missiles for nuclear war-heads and for modern poison gases.

From 1958 to 1964 Diederichs bore top responsibility for the Atomic Energy Board of the Republic of South Africa. The theoretician of the Atomic Energy Board is Dr Heinz Verleger, German nuclear physicist who has been a professor of the University of Pretoria since 1955. In the nazi era Verleger was employed with the rank of government counsellor in the Physical-Technical Reich Institute in Berlin. He fled to South Africa in 1945.

Other confidential agents of West German finance capital occupy key positions on the Atomic Energy Board. These include Dr Theo Schumann, deputy chairman of the board, a South-West African and son of a German missionary, who is also a specialist for "meteorological" rockets, and Dr A. J. A. Roux, director of the Atomic Energy Research Development Programme of South Africa, who maintains contact with DEGUSSA, the West German atom concern controlled by Abs. Roux was the head of the South African delegation to the International Atomic Conference in Geneva. He visited the chiefs of DEGUSSA, top West German atom firm, on September 29th 1958 and offered to supply uranium concentrate. Roux stated frankly that the Atomic Energy Board was having difficulty with the Anglo-American firm, "Combined Development Agency", its main customers for South African uranium. DEGUSSA, which had long been looking for a "free" source of raw materials for its own atomic experiments (when US firms supply uranium to West German firms they impose certain restrictions and insist that the plutonium produced be returned), immediately took up the offer. After lengthy negotiations, agreement was reached on the supply of 100 tons of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) over a period of ten years. The price was fixed at $10.25 for the first five years and $8.20 for the second five years per pound avoirdupois of U_3O_8.

In the course of the negotiations Roux repeatedly declared that, for political and ideological reasons, he and his friends would prefer to cooperate in atomic research and atomic technology with West Germany rather than with any other country. He made proposals for close cooperation. Negotiations on these questions were conducted by Ministerial Director Karl Kaissling, head of Department III (Nuclear Research), on behalf of the Atomic Commission of the West German Federal Republic. He placed the uranium expert Hans Paul at the disposal of the South Africans, and also the licence to use a method of refining uranium ore developed at the West German pilot plant at Ellweiler.

In the meantime the Ellweiler process has been developed so that nuclear-clean solutions and fissionable end products can be produced. For security reasons, the large-scale tests in the pilot plant were transferred to Johannesburg, where they were successfully completed in 1963.

Hans Paul's presence in South Africa was camouflaged by the grant of an oil processing concession by Diederichs.

In 1963 the first atomic reactor in South Africa, near Pretoria, which was being built by the American firm Allis-Chalmers, was nearing completion.

On January 12th 1962, an unnamed South African scientist declared in the "Rand Daily Mail": "It is within the bounds of our resources to make an atom bomb".

This statement is correct. South Africa at present produces 20% of the uranium mined in the capitalist world, and has the greatest proved reserves of uranium ores. Other minerals important for atomic research, such as lithium, are also mined in South Africa. The steel industry, engineering and the chemical industry in South Africa are growing quickly and are highly productive.

The Zurich magazine "Südafrika" published an article in its No. 1 issue of 1964 entitled: „South Africa is in a position to exploit atomic energy", in which it stated:

"Dr T. E. W. Schumann, deputy president of the South African

(cont. from previous page)

lin Wall, since both the western powers and the German Federal Republic had rejected the idea of a neutralised Germany...

"For us to recognise the GDR means to recognise the fact that the situation which led to its foundation was caused by Germans. To recognise the GDR means not to overcome the GDR, but to overcome the situation which made the GDR necessary. To recognise the GDR means to watch carefully the unconstitutional false path of development being taken in the German Federal Republic in the political and social field, a development which could one day become an almost insuperable mortgage for the formation of an all-German state."

Atomic Energy Board, stated in Pretoria that in the past four years South Africa had formed one of the best-trained corps of scientists for nuclear research outside the big western powers, Japan and Russia... A further 83 South African scientists were at present continuing their studies at many institutes in Europe, England and the USA."

Despite the favourable conditions with regard to materials and personnel, and despite the aid received from West Germany, the large-scale production of nuclear fuel and atomic bombs represents an enormous effort for the South African economy, particularly in the financial field, and this made thorough discussions with Hermann Abs necessary.

The discussions revealed the fact that such unusual industrial and financial efforts could no longer be kept secret. It was therefore decided to launch a large-scale programme of nuclear power production by ESCOM, the state electricity concern; this would help to provide camouflage and would make it easier to finance big production of nuclear material.

A campaign was suddenly launched for a project to cover the entire power needs of South Africa within ten years by means of nuclear energy. Mr Rood, chairman of the Union Steel Corporation in Pretoria, demanded a speed-up in the nuclear power production plans in South Africa. Professor Zeemann, director of the Institute of Physics of the University of Stellenbosch, told the press that in about ten years nuclear power could have replaced traditional power sources in South Africa, and Dr A. J. A. Roux announced that by the beginning of the 1970s it would be possible to count on the economic production of nuclear power in South Africa. ("Südafrica von Woche zu Woche", October 11th 1963 and March 21st 1964).

This propaganda led to an ESCOM loan of 40 million rands (20 million pounds sterling) being over-subscribed within 48 hours, but it did not prevent foreign experts becoming suspicious. Dr A. Sigvard Eklund, Swedish Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, sounded the alarm. At a press conference in Washington he declared that, as nuclear power became economical, international guarantees were necessary to prevent the misuse of nuclear material for military purposes.

Dr Eklund stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency had unanimously decided at its meeting in Vienna in February 1964 that such guarantees were necessary for all nuclear power plants with a capacity of more than 100,000 kilowatts, in order to ensure that at least the fissionable material produced in nuclear power works built with the aid of the International Atomic Energy Agency would not be misused for military purposes ("New York Times", March 28/29 1964).

This decision does not specifically name the South African-West German "nuclear power plant", but it does draw international attention to the frightful threat to world peace posed by such camouflage plants; it also helps to mobilise the peace forces of the world against this threat.

With regard to the production of missiles capable of carrying atomic warheads and poison gases, Defence Minister Fouché told the South African Parliament in June 1963 that South Africa intended to produce its own guided missiles. In October 1963 Professor L. J. le Roux, Vice-President of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, announced that South Africa had established an Institute for Rocket Research near Pretoria, and had set up its own testing grounds. He said that the Institute would give South Africa "a foothold in space and weather research".

Space rockets are, of course, rockets with a long range.

West German specialists from firms controlled by Abs are also occupied in preparing for missile production. The firms concerned are the Bölkow Entwicklung KG in Munich and the practically identical Waffen- und Luftrüstungs AG in Hamburg. International protests forced this second firm to abandon its rocket tests at Wattenmeer on the North Sea; these tests will now be continued on the rocket testing grounds near Pretoria, following the removal of its experts to South Africa.

The firms of Siemens and Telefunken have also sent experts and technicians to the Institute for Rocket Research in South Africa.

West Germany's main interest in South Africa is research on long-range missiles. In spring 1964 the West German Institute for Aeronomics established a rocket observation and ionosphere station with antennae 120 metres high near Tsumeb in South West Africa, close to the Angolan frontier and a thousand kilometres from Pretoria.

This Institute cooperates closely with the West German Defence Ministry; its projects are directly financed from the budget of this Ministry.

The station at Tsumeb, which is particularly suited to testing missiles which could reach any point on the African continent, is controlled on the South African side by Dr Theo Schumann, specialist for meteorological rockets, who works closely with Diederichs on the Atomic Energy Board.

Mr U in Sofia, Belgrade

An official delegation from the German Democratic Republic, headed by Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council, visited Bulgaria and Yugoslavia during September.

At the conclusion of the one-week visit to Bulgaria, the government of the GDR and Bulgaria signed a joint declaration stressing the common political stand and the growing economic cooperation between the two countries. The communique stated:

"Peace in Europe depends above all on the solution of the German problem. Since imperialist forces split Germany, and since today there are two German states with differing social systems, the German question can only be solved on the basis of a recognition of the existing situation in Germany."

The Bulgarian Government declared its support for a normalisation of relations between the two German states, and for their acceptance in the United Nations. The German Democratic Republic welcomed the fact that Bulgaria and West Germany were establishing official trade relations.

In parallel talks between the Socialist Unity Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party, full agreement was reached on questions affecting the international communist movement. Both parties "condemned the anti-Marxist, nationalist and petty bourgeois policy and the splitting tactics of the leaders of the Communist Party of China", and gave their support to an early meeting of the world communist parties.

On its return from Bulgaria the GDR delegation spent one day in Yugoslavia for talks with President Tito and other Yugoslav leaders. A further development of relations between the two states, and an exchange of government delegations was discussed.

The German Library in Leipzig bought 92,000 books in 1963, the largest number purchased in any single year since the library was founded in 1912. It now contains over 3 million volumes and regularly exchanges books with 18,000 centres in 70 countries.

GDR PREDOMINATES AT OLYMPICS

The German Democratic Republic, with a population less than one-third of West Germany, provides the clear majority of athletes for the "All-Germany" team sent to the Olympic Games in Tokyo. The huge joint team, of 376 athletes, consists of 194 from the GDR and 182 from West Germany.

West German newspapers, bewailing the fact that the GDR had won more places, pointed out that this was due to the far better facilities for sport and athletics provided in the German Democratic Republic.

The fact that the two independent states of West Germany and the GDR send a joint team to the Olympic Games is due to a ruling of the International Olympic Committee about ten years ago. The International Olympic Committee laid down that both German states had the right to maintain independent national Olympic Committees, but that they could only send a team to the Olympic Games held every four years if this team was previously selected from the best competitors of both states. This ruling has led to constant friction between the two sides, since West German bans have led to an almost complete cessation of normal sport exchanges between the two German states; during the pre-Olympic selection contests there were repeated serious arguments on venue and modes of selection which had to be referred to the International Committee for settlement.

To avoid such clashes in future, the National Olympic Committee of the GDR, supported by the Olympic Committees of many other nations, is pressing for a revision of the ruling calling for an all-German team so that the two German states will be able to send their own teams to the 1968 Olympic Games. A growing number of West German sports organisers are giving their support to this move, and the International Olympic Committee itself would reportedly be glad to be rid of having to settle differences between the two German states.

The all-German Olympic Team to the Tokyo Olympics will be headed by Manfred Ewald of the GDR sports organisation, as the representative of the majority of the competitors.

Keeping Minor Cases out of Court

By 1966 most cases of minor crime and civil conflicts in the GDR will be settled by local elected commissions, and will no longer be dealt with by the courts.

This is the aim set out in a new decree published by the State Council of the German Democratic Republic on August 21st. The aim of the new arrangement is not only to relieve the courts of much minor work, but also to draw more and more people into an active participation in the work of society.

The first step towards decentralising and "de-legalising" the treatment of minor crime and conflicts was taken some time ago, when the elected dispute commissions in nationally-owned factories were given the task of dealing with such cases. The first steps in this field have been very successful. During 1963 65,000 cases were heard and dealt with by the 18,000 factory dispute commissions. They handled all sorts of cases, ranging from small thefts and slander to refusal to meet maintenance orders. The dispute commissions have no power to inflict punishments, though they can for instance insist that the offender stay at his place of work and make good any damage done. Their main weapon is the pressure of public opinion.

Under the new decree, similar commissions, known as "Schiedskommissionen" or arbitration commissions, will now be established in residential areas, production co-operatives, and so on. The members of the commissions will be selected by the local elected authority, or by the members of the cooperative. In the discussion in the State Council of the GDR before the promulgation of the new decree it was stressed that there was very little experience in this area, and that it would be a mistake to establish the arbitration commissions hastily. It was hoped that such commissions would be working everywhere by the end of 1964.

The commissions will not only deal with crimes already committed, or conflicts which have already sharpened. The official decree suggests that they can intervene in cases of frequent drunkenness, neglect of children, offences against peace and quiet, and so on.

If the arbitration commission cannot reach a decision, or if a citizen declines to recognise its authority, then the case can be referred to the local court for traditional treatment.

Nazi Criminals in the News

The West German authorities have opened investigations against Hans-Adolf Asbach who is accused of murdering Poles and Jews while serving as a senior local government officer in nazi-occupied Poland during World War Two. From 1951 to 1957 he served as Minister for Social Services in the provincial government of Schleswig-Holstein.

* * *

An SS captain who worked for some months as camp doctor in the nazi death camp of Auschwitz is today practising his profession again as a prosperous private doctor in Hamburg. This was revealed at the Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt (Main), West Germany, in early September, when the doctor in question, Dr Kurt Uhlenbrook was called as a defence witness. He testified that he had worked as Auschwitz camp doctor from August to November 1942 when mass executions in the gas chambers were at their height. One of the main tasks of camp doctors in the nazi concentration camp was to "select" for liquidation prisoners too sick to work. No proceedings have been taken against Dr Uhlenbrook.

* * *

In the summer of 1942, when the liquidation of the Jews of Poland was in full swing, Teodor Ganzenmüller, Deputy State Secretary in the nazi Ministry of Transport, submitted a written report on July 28th to Himmler's adjutant, SS General Karl Wolff, stating:

"Since July 22nd one train a day with 5000 Jews goes from Warsaw to Treblinka (a liquidation camp, ed.), as well as two trains a week with 5000 Jews each from Przemysl to Belsec..."

General Wolff replied on August 13th:

"I was especially pleased to learn from you that already for a fortnight a daily train, taking 5000 of the chosen people every time, had gone to Treblinka ... I have contacted the departments concerned myself so that the smooth carrying out of all these measures seems to be guaranteed."

General Wolff is at present standing trial on war crimes charges in West Germany. Teodor Ganzenmüller, today a very prosperous "industrial adviser" in Dusseldorf, appeared at the trial as a defence witness. No action has been taken against him.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

I really thought that even the most hide-bound old militarists had given up making announcements about how glorious and refreshing a war is; Field Marshal Hindenburg gave the practice a bad name with his announcement in the middle of the trench battles of World War One that "War suits me like a cure at a spa".

But the West German semi-official military magazine "Wehrkunde" (Military Science), which is heavily subsidised by the West German Defence Ministry, published in its September issue a paean of praise of war by General Friedrich von Böttticher, one of Hitler's generals, which throws an interesting light on the mentality of the West German militarists. "A well-conducted war is like a symphony", the old brass-hat wrote. "The task of general staff training is to light a holy flame in the breasts of the officers so that they shall be fit for the apex of human life, and shall overcome the weakness of their times ... In war God reveals himself to mankind."

It might be possible to dismiss this as the raving of a mad retired general — and retired generals in Germany, even more than elsewhere, seem often to go round the bend — if it were not for the fact that it was published in this semi-official monthly magazine.

Model Democracy

West Germany has been moderately successful in representing itself in the western world as a "model democracy". Here are a couple of West German news items which throw a certain distorting light on this claim. The semi-official West German news agency DPA reported on September 18th:

"Frankfurt/Main. (dpa). Frankfurt Provincial Court sentenced journalist Dieter Graf, 32, to 500 marks fine, and to payment of part of the costs for insulting the Federal Government... Graf was sentenced for describing the foreign policy of 'Bonn' as schizophrenic and senseless. The trial lasted 86 days and 50 witnesses were heard. The costs are estimated at between 100,000 and 120,000 marks."

The left-wing Hamburg newspaper "Die Andere Zeitung" reported on September 17th:

"Once again attention must be drawn to the curious political sentences passed by the Fourth Court of Lüneberg Provincial Court. Public Prosecutor Ottersbach, implicated in nazi crimes (who has since left the judicial service) played a role here. After an appeal against acquittal he obtained the sentencing of Klaus Rose, a press photographer who had attended the World Youth Festival in Moscow, and held lantern lectures on his experiences. Since this sentence is obviously a breach of the Constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and freedom of opinion, an appeal to the Federal Constitutional Court would appear to be indicated. We publish below a description of the case given us by Klaus Rose:

"In 1957 I attended the Moscow Youth Festival. I returned from Moscow with many impressions, and naturally many photographs. I showed the photos to friends, and they were so impressed that I gave a series of lantern lectures, to groups including the YMCA and the League of Former Africa Corps Soldiers.

"Because of these lectures I was tried by the Lüneberg Fourth Court on charges of 'endangering the state', and acquitted. The public prosecutor appealed, and the acquittal was quashed. On September 18th 1959 I was tried again by the Fourth Court in Lüneberg; the public prosecutor was Dr Ottersbach, since removed from the judical service. I was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for 'endangering the state'; the sentence was suspended for three years, during which I was on probation. No evidence was presented of the contents of my lectures, and none of my photos were shown to the court. In suspending the sentence the court stated: "This has been done in order to bring pressure to bear upon the accused so that he may behave properly in future, and to prevent his slipping back. One of the terms of his probation shall be that he should not attend communist-steered rallies.'

Press Photos

"In summer 1962 the editor of the youth magazine 'Elan' asked me to make press photos of the World Youth Festival in Helsinki. On May 14th 1963, political police searched my apartment. They seized my cameras, typewriter, legal correspondence and all my negatives. After considering this material for more than one year, the officials of the public prosecutors' office discovered the photos taken at the Helsinki Festival. On June 18th 1964, eighteen months after my period of probation had ended, the Fourth Court of Lüneberg ordered me to begin serving my nine month sentence, stating: 'The terms of the probation were intended to make it possible to supervise the obedience to the law shown by the probationer; the court felt it necessary to impose the term that the probationer should stay away from any rally of this sort. This includes attendance in the capacity of a press photographer'.

"Now I shall have nine months' time to reflect upon the meaning of freedom of the press."

Stamp on Stamps

Most countries these days seem to be ready to issue commemorative postage stamps at the drop of a hat, pleasing stamp-collectors who like these bright little bits of paper, and annoying philatelists who have slowly abandoned hope of keeping up with all the new issues.

Well up in the van in the flood of special issues is the German Democratic Republic, which broke new ground a year or two ago with a postage stamp commemorating the invention of the glass teapot, if my memory is correct. But obviously there has to come a time when even the most eager and inventive Minister of Posts runs out of suitable things to commemorate, and I must say it looks to me, as a complete layman in this matter, as though this point has now been reached in the GDR. The latest series of special stamps consists of special stamps commemorating the issue of previous special stamps, and picturing in miniature form the earlier commemorative. This obviously opens up almost unlimited perspectives. In a few years' time we may look forward to the special stamps commemorating the special stamps which commemorated the special stamps (if you are still with me), like that fondly-remembered packet of Quaker Oats which showed a Quaker holding a packet of Quaker Oats depicting a Quaker holding a packet of Quaker Oats and so ad infinitum. I am glad I stopped collecting stamps thirty-five years ago.

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